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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT (Optional)

FROM

EXTENSION

NO.

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

DATE
22 March 65

A letter written by
Lt. J. Korovka
by telegram 4/36
and the wife
who told me
in book recently
Korovka's name
was in the
College and page
13-22.
The comment is
for in the
Academy 5 lines
page 24

This is an excellent
and informative report.
4- Excellent paper.
5- Highly good reporting

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

File: 74-124-29/3

FORM
3-62

610

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Vitaliy KOROTYCH

(Notes on talks held March 3 to March 7, 1965 in Toronto)

Since their first evening in Toronto, M and R were with K continually for four days. They talked at dinner parties held by Toronto Ukrainians, in hotel rooms, in restaurants, while taking long walks along the streets, in subways and automobiles, at all times of the day and night, alone and in groups.

General characteristics: K is nearly six feet tall, very slim, and very strong (he used to be active in various sports, now merely keeps in condition, by taking five-six mile walks daily). His hair receded noticeably in the last year or two, but it is still very black, with no traces of grey. He dresses casually, and says that his favorite attire includes jeans, sneakers and sports shirt. This is how he usually dresses in Kiev and when he is on duty, the long white physician's coat covers most of his clothes. A Czech newspaper, recently wrote that K is leaders of Kiev's beatniks. This he mentions as a comment on his dress habits.

His moods are many, and he is able to change them on a very short notice.

There is the K -- "enfant terrible", who will jump up to reach the ceiling, who will tumble on the floor or bed, or who will play with one of his two jackknives, throwing them against the wall or furniture. This K has to be told not to do some things, and sometimes he listens.

Then there is ~~K~~ K, the scholar. He will carry on a serious discussion on literature with a university professor, and he will talk, bringing up examples from the classical and modern, Ukrainian and foreign literature without much hesitation. He does similar things when the conversation turns to medicine; here he shows familiarity with new techniques and drugs.

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There is K, the entertainer, when he goes before an audience, his charm just oozes out. His voice inflections, gesticulations and facial expressions turn his poetry readings (always from memory) into pure entertainment.

There is also K, the campaigner. During a question period either in large or small company he is able to debate every question put to him. He does not evade tough questions, and when persons warn him that perhaps he need not ^{answer} a certain question, he insists that they ask it anyway. He is loudly confident in his views, and at times even cocksure that he can answer any query, even if it deals with milk production of the kolhosps. He then sounds like a tough political campaigner. At the same time there is another side to this man. As he seemingly confidently makes his point, and forcefully convinces the opponent in the debate, he, at the same time firmly clutches the coat of his friend, as if seeking some physical support in a difficult situation. He then looks like a man soldier in the trench who conquers his fear when he has to go to battle. The fear, nevertheless is there. He even mentions it openly later on, and says "I did not say anything I should not have said, did I? Oh, the devil take it. I hate these people who come here and don't say anything for fear of saying something wrong. I want to state my point openly. Let the SOB's make their accusations, I hate them anyway." Or: "Do you think someone in that group is a stoolpigeon? Ah! Hell! They're everywhere. Svitychny has the right idea. When he wakes up in a hotel room he throws a few obscenities against the authorities, and then tests the hidden microphone by counting one, two, three, four" (And K laughs, saying this is a terribly funny thing to do.)

Marital Status

"I was married on a beach," he says. He was playing volleyball in a competition at some resort on the Black Sea. There was this nice girl from Moscow, a member of another team. "She was a nice girl, a good girl, really. Two days later I found myself married to her. Then she went back to Moscow and her university, and I went back to Kiev and my Medical Institute." I told my mother about my wedding, it took some convincing, but then she accepted the idea. Now my wife and I live together. She is a chemical engineer. makes more money than I do. She is a good woman. She has learned Ukrainian and makes an effort at speaking it. ^{Her name is Zina} Our son (he calls him "my krokodil")

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is six years old. He plays on the street all day long with the other kids and speaks a mixture of everything. But when he talks to me in Russian I just don't answer him. He then realizes that he has to talk to me in Ukrainian. I asked him what he would like me to bring back for him, and he said a sheriff's outfit. There you go. I can talk to him for days about the Cossacks, but he goes to one American cowboy movie, and comes back playing a cowboy or a sheriff, shooting with his finger at me. I've said it before. We are at fault here. You can buy complete cowboy outfits for kids, but it would take so little to manufacture small Cossack costumes for little boys. But we're not doing it. That's a shame."

K nevertheless has been examining a number of toy revolvers and sheriff's stars. The boys stays with K's in-laws all day, while both parents are at work.

K's Home

For almost a year now K is a proud owner of a co-op apartment. He is very proud of this fact and often mentions it. It is located in the only nine-floor apartment building in the new section of Kiev. He lives on the fifth floor. He bought the apartment using 2,000 rubles of his royalty for his last book, and the 2,000 are only a downpayment, and he has to pay 20 or 50 rubles a month for the next 20 years (interest-free), then the apartment will be fully his. K has three rooms: living-dining room, bedroom, and his study -- a private preserve, to enter which, even members of his closest family have to knock on the door. About ten of "the boys" -- that is his close associates, poets, writers and critics -- will fit into this study for bull sessions, recordings of poetry etc. K has a collection of hunting knives in his room (this is unlawful, because such knives are considered dangerous weapons), and a whole library of books, many of which are also proscribed. Asked what would happen if his apartment were searched K replied that it has not been searched yet, that lately searches have not been carried on, but admitted with a smile, that he would be in trouble.

"The boys" -- "the nationbuilders"

K often speaks of "the boys" to mean a group of his friends the poets and artists of the '60s. They are not organized in any formal group but they know each other and they help each other out in various situations. They also have patrons among the older generation of literary men -- Bazhan and Malyshko are two such 'patrons -- who help them out in pushing the unpublished works through the printing and publishing processes, and who also defend them when need arises.

The Boys are not in any clear-cut conflict with the older generation. They have respect for such men as Tychna and the late Sosyura, for instance, and they are ready to forgive them their party-line criticisms and writings caused by fear. The boys, nevertheless, consider these men great, for their past achievements.

But they also are in conflict with persons of their own or older generations. Such object of frequent critical asides, and a butt for jokes seems to be for K Lyubomyr Dmyterko. That name often becomes a synonym for evil men in general. Aleksandr Korneichuk is referred to more often with a feeling of pity than hate, but K also tells funny stories about him. Daytro Pavlychko is not one of the boys, but he is also not hated by them. They are not envious of his success, which they know came through the adherence to the Party line, but they call him Dmytryk-Khytryk. One has a feeling that the boys are well aware that Pavlychko knows what they are up to, but he holds on to his official honors, and may, from time to time help them out. (The above is purely an opinion, based on several conversations, during which attention was paid to the tone of voice and facial expressions.)

K speaks without the least degree of conceit about himself and the boys as the nationbuilders. He earnestly talks about the need to divide evenly the burdens among the few of them, and continue to work on the day-to-day job of building the Ukrainian nation. When he says that "we have to work for the people" the expression has literal meaning and does not sound like an empty slogan. He also says such things as "We already have Ukraine in the villages, it's time to bring it into the cities." Or: (when asked when the letter "g" will be brought back into the Ukr. alphabet): "first we have

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to teach the people to use the letter "yi", then time will come for "g". After K said that one has to work for the people, someone present interjected, "And what about the Party." K. smiled and answered "That's an interesting idea. We'll have to think about it." In every case his quick retorts to what might be considered as heckling, are those of a professional Western politician. He does not hesitate, and say that he will have the answer tomorrow, but rather enjoys this ~~xxxx~~ battle of wits.

Legal means and optimism

K readily admits that he and the boys have difficulties in many areas of their work. But he also frequently emphasizes that his generation is not afraid. He well knows what it means to be afraid, he knows fearful persons, but he says that he has no reason to be afraid. "I have never been arrested, or threatened with death. What can they do to me? Take away my apartment? Let them. There are even fellows like Dzyuba who are convinced that we could do more as dead men than we do now, while we are alive. I don't believe that, but the point is that we are not afraid of death."

He then quickly switches to a more optimistic tone and points out that things are much better now than they were three and five years ago. "Even when we write in our newspapers about poor readership and shortage of Ukrainian books, that's good (that phrase recurs quite often in his conversation), because five years ago we could not do it."

K made it very clear that he and his associates are playing a game of chess with the officialdom. "They make a move here and we make a move there." He said they began asking recently why Ukrainian language is not used in all departments of the Ukrainian Universities. They were told: "Give us the textbooks and the instructors." This, said K, is a problem, and we are working on it. For example, very shortly a pathological congress will be held in Kiev, he said, and every paper will be delivered in Ukrainian. This was thanks to his own and other's efforts, who translated several papers into Ukrainian. "I plan to write my doctoral dissertation for one reason only: to have another textbook out in Ukrainian."

These boys, in other words, periodically demand certain things which they consider to be their lawful rights and the authorities give in sometimes

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K recalled, for example, that when time was approaching for Molod Ukrayiny to issue its 10,000 number, a delegation of young Ukrainians, among them K, went to the government to ask for another medal for Molod Ukrayiny. They maintained that it is not for the newspaper, but for molod Ukrayiny, the youth of Ukraine, that they are asking for the honor. They were successful and now, M.U. is the only Ukrainian newspaper with two medals. He says that he knows very well that it does not mean much, yet he is proud that they were able to achieve this honor for M.U. and that now MU is no worse than some of the Russian newspapers with two medals.

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K's Meetings with Public in Toronto

KOZUB

K's only public appearance in Toronto was held March 5 in Ontario Room of Lord Simcoe Hotel. He read poetry there and answered a few questions submitted on slips of paper.

The evening was organized personally by Petro VOLYNIAK, editor-publisher of Novi Dni, in the name of Kozub, the other literary and art club of Toronto's Ukrainian community. (The Club is made up of dissenters from The Ukr. Lit. and Art Club). Volyniak made all the arrangements and opened the evening, but he let the president of Kozub, and another member of the executive sit at the head table. The president introduced K. Volyniak said later that there was some opposition in Kozub to the sponsorship of an evening ^{for} ~~xxx~~ a Soviet poet; then he decided to go it alone, after which Kozub agreed to sponsor it.

Audience was invited individually. There were 220 persons, most of them from Toronto, but also from more distant places -- Oshawa, Guelph, Hamilton. Volyniak reported privately that he spent about \$8.00 on long distance phones.

In opening the evening, Volyniak made one mistake. He said the K is in Canada on a fellowship to study the young people. (It should have been the young nation). When he said this, someone in the audience (believed to be one of about 30 banderivtsi present), asked, "For whom." That person quickly received dirty looks from his neighbors and did not say anything else all evening. The remark was hardly heard, and Volyniak disregarded it. This was the only "incidcident" all evening.

K explained the purpose of his trip, said that since UNESCO is non-political organization, he may not involve himself in politics, if he does not want to have the fellowship abruptly terminated. (In other conversations K repeated this, adding that he would like to go anywhere as long as his hosts would assure him that neither the "Internationale" nor the "Shche ne vmerla" would be sung there. He is also very proud, and repeats it often, that his money came from Mr Rockefeller or the Rockefeller Center. -- Note: He is probably confused here. The UNESCO check is probably written on a bank in Rockefeller Center).

K recited his poems from memory. A few minutes before going to the hotel he wrote on a piece of paper about five poems that he wanted to recite.

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As for the success of the evening, it may be stated without much exaggeration, that he had the audience eating out of his hand. He is a very able performer, and, as he said himself privately, adjusts his selections and method of delivery to the type of audience before him. He said that he has much experience in reciting poetry, because "if they won't print us, we have to find other means of speaking to the people." These means include personal appearances before groups in cafes, corridors, occasionally in the Sports Palace (They managed to pack it once, and since then have not been able to use it. He also related one literary evening devoted to a poet of the older generation at the Association of Writers to which F I V E (5) persons came). ~~They said~~ K said they also tape a lot of poems and mail it around the country. He told the Kozub audience, for instance, that the Symonenko poems received in the West and published in Suchasnist came here on tapes.

After the recitation, K answered a few, not very significant questions. Sample: "Have you been to Lviv?" "What can you say about Vysoky Zamok?" "Do you know about (the city of) Yelysavetohrad?"

The next day Volyniak came to K's hotel room, with a witness, and reported on the income from the evening. After reading off expenses, he said that \$179 was left over, and he handed the money over to K, saying he would not have to sign for it, and that no one need know about it. K refused the money, saying that he never intended to make business in Canada, but finally was convinced that it is normal to accept money for performances. He then wanted to go to the bar immediately and use it to buy drinks for the group with him -- about five persons. He did not really know how much there was, because he was not even listening when Volyniak was counting it. When he was alone with R, shortly after, a brilliant idea hit him, and he was literally jumping up and down for having thought of it. It was to push the whole roll of money into R's hands, so R would use it to cover transportation costs when he comes to visit K again. He even said that he was willing to hold more literary evenings, and thus finance more of M and R's trips to see him. This offer was also refused, and he rather indignantly shoved the roll into the back pocket of his jeans.

This little episode is significant, because a day earlier K explained in detail how he carefully spends his fellowship money. It's \$15 a day: \$4.50 for room, \$3.00 for food, "and I save \$5.00 for gifts for my mother ~~and~~ and wife."

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AT LEVYTSKY'S

K went to dinner March 3 at the home of Vasyl Levytsky, editor of Novy Shliakh. Present were both Levytskys, Iwachniuks, Pawliws, Lida Palij, Volyniak, Tonya Horokhovich, Borys Aleksandriv and M & R.

During dinner K talked about some of "the boys", about Pohruzhal'sky, and recited a few of his poems.

IN HIS HOTEL ROOM

K had a visit from two persons -- a hetmanets and a melnykivets who recently immigrated from Australia. They came with Mr. Mota, who has a snack bar concession in the hotel (Waverley). Mota simply introduced them and kept in the background; the younger melnykivets asked him some very immature questions about the nationality policy in the USSR, which K easily handled. The older m. started to tell him about the necessity of land reform in the Soviet Union, which would give each person 250 desyatyns of land and that the kolhosp system is bankrupt. R butted in, trying to tell the man that these things are not K's business, although K was doing a good job in arguing with him. After a while, the man told K that he is unable to talk with him, if he is accompanied by "guardian angels" (pointing at R). He later told R that Symonenko knew all of Ukraine's agricultural problems, and K must be told of them also. The whole situation may be described as simply ridiculous and a waste of time.

HUMENIUK

This is a local lawyer, and walnut grower, who made an appointment with K for early ~~xxx~~ morning March 4. He transplanted some walnuts from Ukraine and now grows some very large ones in Ontario. The secret, he said is in the destruction of squirrels, and he told K to think about writing a poem against squirrels. He also asked K to see, upon his return, what could be done about importing Humeniuk's walnuts into Ukraine.

POCHENIUK

After the Kozub evening, K was whisked quickly into the home of Mr. Pocheniuk, who lives in a suburb of Toronto. Pocheniuk has a daily Ukrainian radio program over station CHWO, Oakville. Present were four of Poch's associates (the Naumovychs et al.) and around 1 a.m. a half dozen other persons came in. They had been at the Kozub evening, were sold on

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K, talked about him in a restaurant, and then decided to find him. They did. The party at the Pocheniuks was devoted almost entirely to listening to the achievements of RR Pocheniuk and his nine year old son, listening to P's records of his favorite songs and his own poetry, and to tapes of his program.

K told about his wife and son, and how he came to be married.

ODUM Leaders

Volyniak arranged a meeting with K at the home of one of ODUM (Ukrainian Democratic Youth Ass'n) leaders, where other leaders were present. Volyniak spoke of himself as the spiritual father of this organization, and insisted that K come there, "because your presence for one hour can do more than my talks with them during an entire year." About 14 persons were present.

K did not say very much. He was talking mostly privately with R. The others were satisfied with just being in K's presence, and listening to Volyniak's exploits in the field of political, religious and publishing activities.

K read a few poems. These were taped. One of the poems which was taped had not been published, and he felt uneasy about it, because he promised R earlier that he would not allow taping of unpublished poetry, but when he started reciting it, he wanted to finish it.

The group sang some Sov. Ukrainian songs. K joined in. (Good voice). He promised before leaving that he would not write a bad article about Canada on anyone's orders, and promised to do all he could, so that Ukrainians in Canada would receive better books and records from the Ukraine.

IN GUELPH

Volyniak arranged another visit on Sunday, March 7 at the home of Aleksandriv relatives in Guelph, Ont. A dozen persons were present there: all of them Volyniak people, plus singer Hoshulak, who works as librarian with Aleksandriv.

K was asked whether he thought of defecting. K said there would be nothing for him to do here. After six months of questionings, he would become an alcoholic, and he would also have to make some very strong statements against the Soviet regime. He said he was not interested in all that. From Guelph, K went directly to the airport.

(M and R were present at all these meetings).

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OTHER MEETINGS

K spent a whole night talking with Capt. Bohdan Panchuk, sec.-gen of Ukrainian Canadian Veterans Ass'n. Panchuk left him the constitution of his Association, gave him a lecture about Ukrainians in Canada, told him to be careful and diplomatic, and the next day left him a letter to that effect. Panchuk lives in Montreal, and promised to take care of K there.

Petro Kravchuk, a Ukrainian Communist did not contact K until about K's fourth day in Toronto. K said he wanted to avoid Kravchuk and his people, but felt he should pay a state visit. He visited the Ukr. Life editorial offices, had supper on Kravchuk, and the next day, agreed to go with one of Kravchuk's men to a hockey game. K did not stay to the end of the game, but left at half time, to join the Volyniak group for the party.

K also met Prof. G S N Lyskyj twice briefly, once for a drink, and made arrangements to visit him at the University of Toronto upon K's return from the West. They talked about literary matters, and possible English translations of Ukr. poetry into English.

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Ivan DRACH

D is the only son of an older couple. His parents are now 70 and 60 years old (approximately). D was born in a village, and always spoke Ukrainian, but says that he did not think of himself as Ukrainian until he came out of the army and entered university in Kiev. He is still amazed how he became conscious of his Ukrainianism. At times "the boys" sit down and talk about it. They even go as far as speculating about the Buddhist beliefs of reincarnation. That is to say, that the soul of one or the other of the Ukrainian writers of the 20s, whom ~~the~~ D or K seem to follow, has entered into them. (All this is said without some profound feeling of mysticism, but as pure speculation, with a grain of salt and a smile.)

Drach served three years in the army, where he also joined the Communist Party. The army had a negative effect on him: the language spoken among the soldiers is a mixture of everything, with heavy overtones of Russian, and D's Ukrainian suffered in the process. He then came to Kiev, and discovered Ukrainian literature. It was then, in the late 1950s, that Ivan Drach, the poet was born.

D did not complete the university. (K did not say, in so many words that D was expelled). He stopped taking day courses, and switched to evening division. But when time came to take his final exams, he dropped out. His reason was that some of the professors who were to examine him, had written very critically against some of D's writings and he imagined what would have happened during the exams.

"Drach is such a strong, healthy, peasant character," says K. "He just frowned and said 'to hell with you' and dropped out." K says that D often does such things. He'll frown, and say an emphatic "no", then it's impossible to change his mind. It also takes a while for D to open up before strangers. "It will take him two days -- just sitting and frowning -- before he starts talking openly with someone new," says K.

"The boys" generally accept that D has the higher education, although he formally did not complete the university. After his studies he went to Moscow and completed there the practical studies in cinematography.

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There is a system in the USSR that a scenario writer may get a year's contract from a studio, which pays him 150 rubles a month. If, during that time the studio accepts the script, that person received another year's contract. In the case of D, this is the way it happened, and he now is working on his second contract.

Drach has an apartment -- a subdivided quarters, where he has two rooms. His neighbors have a telephone. This is significant, because D is the only member of the "group" who may be reached at home by phone. Generally it is both fashionable, and necessary for the "boys" not to have phones. This way they cannot be distracted or called constantly to attend "silly meetings".

Like the other "boys" D prefers not to be called at home, where he likes to work on his own projects. If anyone wants to get in touch with him, he should do it at the place where D works (the Dovzhenko Studio).

D joined the Writers Association at the same time as K, Vinhranovsky and Symonenko: as the exception to the regulations. Normally an author who has three books behind him is recommended by three or four members of the Association for membership. But when these four were accepted, in 1961, it was on the proposal of Yuriy Smolych, who suggested it was time to put tradition and regulations aside and accept them. The executive board of the Association then made a special ruling.

K explains that membership in the Association is a very useful thing. "With the Association's membership card, you don't have to be employed anywhere, and the authorities will not look into your affairs. You may die of hunger, but they won't bother you."

D was in Moscow, when he learned about the article by A.H. Horbach in Ost Europa, praising the young poets. He quickly came to Kiev and got "the boys" to write the replies, to be published in a Moscow newspaper, in Russian, to put a quick end to the whole affair and thus avoid further charges and debates at home. If this were done in Kiev, says K, the whole thing would be blown up. The boys feel that such articles, written in a magazine of that sort (one advocating the return of Germany's eastern lands) does more harm than good for them. This is why they used their own initiative to nip the whole thing at the bud.

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Lina KOSTENKO

Lina lives in poverty, with her 13-year-old daughter, but is very proud and will not accept charity. She had a job at the studio, like Drach, but the contract ended, the script was not accepted, and now she is unemployed.

Recently she received 250 rubles from DNIPRO for her poems, and this will last her two months. She does not want to join her husband in Poland, saying that her place is in Kiev.

The only way "the boys" can help her, is to do all they can to get her works into print. Several times her poems have been readied for publication and pulled out in the last minute. This means no income.

Lina joined the Writers Association three or four years before the others of "the boys".

She was born six years before K, in 1930, but literary critics say that both she and K are similar in their x style of writing.

Mykola VINHAROVSKYY

"He's an actor," says K, and starts imitating V's style of reading poetry (high and low pitches in voice, whispers, gesticulations). V loves audiences. He inhales deeply before an audience, sticks out his chest, looks up and begins to act.

About ten months ago he began to drink heavily, and it is very seldom now that anyone sees him sober. He works as second director of the Odessa Studio. "There, among the little Jews, he is producing second rate pictures!" He owes money in Kiev, and is unable to pay it back. His wife and child are also reduced to poverty, and continue to borrow.

Not long ago, to help V "the boys" put together a selection of his poetry from his letters. It was to be published in one of the magazines, along with the poems of Kostenko. But her poems were pulled out, and his were pulled out in the same process. This is the way things are done, said K, "when one of us is attacked, the rest suffer."

The boys agree that V lacks "culture". He has the attitude that is "if my grandfater did not read Kant, and my father did not read Kant, why should I bother with him." They feel that it is their duty to "make Mykola more cultured" but they are having difficulties.

V is a great skirt-chaser. This has led him into his present state of matrimony. He was coming back to Kiev on a plane from Moscow, and spotted one stewardess, whom he found attractive. Immediately V started to work on her, and when K saw him, V was carrying back from the airport a carton full of small bottles of alcohol (the kind served passengers on the plane). Soon the stewardess became pregnant, and now she is V's wife.

Another of V's faults is his inability to be flexible and use his wits, when he is attacked officially. He is very straightforward, and speaks his mind, when, as K says, it is necessary to play a game of chess, to outwit the official censors and critics. This is why he usually is hit hard when he is hit. On the other hand, criticism does not seem to bother V. He just wants to be left alone.

When Drach got the idea to write a joint reply to the article by A.H. Horbach (in Ost Europa), they were looking for V in all the bars, houses of ill repute and similar places of Odessa, for two days, and could not find him.

Vitaliy KOROTITCH

(this is how the last name is spelled on his foreign travel passport).

K often brings up in conversation his Ukrainianism. Here he points out that he is the only member of the "group" who was born in the city (Kiev); all others are of peasant stock. By this he implies that a person born in Kiev should be Russified, "but then I, for example, attended schools where only Ukrainian was used for instruction," meaning that Kiev is not so completely Russified.

K wrote his first piece of verse when he was seven years old. "I was quickly made a wunderkind, and appeared everywhere at concerts and other events reciting poems and reading little speeches." He was made a "junior correspondent" (yunkor) of the Pioneer newspaper Zirka. When K grew older, he stopped writing poetry and reciting other people's poems, because he thought this was being "sissy". Instead he went in for sports: volleyball, football, and wrestling.

When K was in his eighth grade, the school was designated as preparatory for future diplomatic corps. Classes were limited to eight persons each, English was being taught, as well as table manners, ballroom dancing etc. Any pupil whose marks fell below 3, was automatically transferred; most of the students had 4's and 5's.

There is a rule in the Sov. Union that any gold medalist from the secondary school has a choice of any university or institute. K was the gold medallist in his school, and his parents quickly took his records to the head of the Medical Institute, who accepted him immediately. (Med. Institute was K's choice, although his parents apparently warned him that income would not be high for a physician.) The family then took off for extended holidays.

When K returned to Kiev, he found out that his school authorities wanted him to go to the institute in Moscow for future diplomats and were looking for him. When he said he was going to enter the Medical Institute they were angry with him, reminding him that the State spent so much extra money on him, grooming him for diplomatic service, and he ungratefully turned this down. K nevertheless stuck by his decision, and went into medicine.

K began writing again at the Institute. He stuck to satire, in which he collaborated with Yuriy SHCHERBAK (see DIGEST, Feb. 1965), who drew caricatures. K relates how one time they got rid of the editor of the student newspaper. No one liked this editor, but it was impossible to remove him. K and S then hit upon the idea of contributing to the newspaper a short item, which would make a fool out of this editor. They wrote a piece, using the proper medical jargon, about the Siamese twins in some distant country, who were joined together by hair. A successful operation was performed and both twins were alive. The editor passed this item into print, and then both K and S ~~had~~ stirred up the campus and made this editor the laughing stock. He was then removed from this position.

During the thaw in literature Drach, with whom K became acquainted a year or two earlier, came up with the news that a publishing house was interested in putting out a joint collection of their poetry. The two started to work on it, but then K had to leave Kiev for his vacations, and when he returned, he learned that now the publishers decided to issue two separate books. Thus K and D went into print and quickly became known as the leading poets. "I was not really known, until my first book came out."

His profession

K says that he could easily give up medicine now, and make much more money as a poet and writer, "but I won't do it as long as I can physically carry on as I do now." His profession gives him independence, and an ability to be close to and understand the people. He has no use for writers (here he usually mentions O. Korneichuk), who have no contact with reality and whose works show it. Being a doctor has another practical side to it. "Whenever I am in some official group and someone starts accusing me of nationalism or something, I just look at my watch and say 'Pardon -- but I am late for duty,' and leave."

K appeared regularly on television, speaking on literary subjects, "or just about anything I want." He has a following. Polish radio wanted him to send in regular talks on tapes, but it is forbidden to mail tapes outside the Soviet borders, so he sends in a written script occasionally. He says he learned Polish to be able to read much of the Western literature which is not available in Ukrainian or Russian. When he was in Poland two years ago, he lectured at the university there and spent much time in the libraries. His first meeting with SUCHASNIIST occurred in Poland.

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K dresses very casually: his favorite attire is a sports shirt, jeans and tennis shoes. Herecalls that one day, after he was awarded his UNESCO fellowship (this occurred almost a year and a half before he came to Canada), he received a call at the hospital to come to the Foreign Minister Luka Palamarchuk's office. It was a very hot day, and K came to the office in shirtsleeves and without a tie. The secretary (a man) in the minister's office put on his own coat and was ready to escort him in, then asked about K's coat and tie, saying "you can't go in like this to see the Foreign Minister." K shrugged his shoulders and said that in that case the Minister would have to wait, while he goes back to the hospital for his coat and tie. "This is how I made Luka Fomych wait for me," says K with a laugh.

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JOHN HUTSALO

Hutsalo is a very self-conscious man, and does not like to appear in public. He has a speech impediment (can't pronounce the letter "r"), which adds to his troubles.

He now works as head of one department in (criticism?) in one of the literary magazines.

K's criticism of Hutsalo is that the latter is slipping down in his writing. "He is now writing about the time he was a little boy and about his mother and grandfather."

Victor Nekrasov

K says that being a Russian writer in Kiev is a disadvantage these days. N is one of them. The circulation of Russian language periodicals, including the Russian-language duplicates of Ukrainian periodicals, is dropping. Men like Nekrasov have trouble appearing in print in mass circulation popular publications. The same goes for personal appearances. N is definitely a friend of K's, but he does not seem to belong to the "group", the "boys".

K tell with a degree of satisfaction about N's appearance before the officialdom, to hear charges following N's praise of the capitalists in Novy Mir. N came in wearing a T-shirt and jeans, took a sneering stance, and delivered an emotional speech about his twenty years as a Communist, about his heroic acts as commander of a battery at Stalingrad and where he was wounded. He was to have said that he was sick and tired of reading only the bad things about the West, that the Western correspondents only look for the bad things in the USSR, but he saw much that was good, so he wrote about it. N's appearance, his emphasis on his adherence to the principles of Communism made the well-dressed officials uneasy. K seemed to think that this is the way bureaucrats should be handled.

Volodya VOYNOVICH

He is a Jew, who lived very poorly for years "in some hole" and was virtually unknown. When the two cosmonauts were in orbit, they sang a song which was then popular. It made the newspapers, and then a search was started for the author of the lyrics. The author, it appeared, was Volodya Voynovich. He was quickly brought into Moscow, scrubbed and dressed and given a decent room. When the cosmonauts came to Moscow, he was there to welcome them too.

Then Volodya wrote his things in Novy Mir, and this brought attacks against him. He still has his room in Moscow, but no longer appears in print. K met him in Moscow.

Personalities11

Yuriy Yelchenko

He is now first secretary of Komsomol of Ukraine.

K thinks he is a good man, because he did not climb through the party machine, but was an engineer, who worked with the people in industry, and then was taken into the Komsomol work.

Yelchenko knows the people and their problems, and he also has a solid following.

Blood donations

Walking along the streets of Toronto with K, we noticed several billboards calling for blood donors. We explained to K that in Canada all blood transfusions are free and that blood banks are replenished through campaigns in schools, shops and offices for blood donations. K said in Ukraine blood donors have to be paid. Campaigns for free donations were tried, but were not successful. He related this incident:

During one such campaign at his Med. Institute there was a big poster "showing a big, smug and smiling socialist face," and underneath it a slogan:

"Ya -- donor. A ty?"

(I'm a donor. And you?)

Some unidentified student wrote underneath:

"A ya -- retsypiyent."

(And I'm a recipient).

K laughed and said he thought this was very good joke, but added that the university authorities did not find it very funny, and for weeks were trying to find out who was the culprit, but without success.

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Fire in the Academy Library

Asked about the fire, K immediately stated that the greatest crime was the authorities attempts to hush it up. Thousands of people, particularly students (because it happened on campus) saw it. The tourists saw it too, so it was stupid to keep it quiet. Vechirnyy Kyiv had a small item about it, and on the evening after the fire started Academy President Paton went on television to say (K repeated the words in Russian): "Don't panic. Only ten per cent." (Meaning that only ten per cent of the books burned down.) K said that this was stupid too, because 10 per cent of the second largest library in the USSR must be quite a number. He was very indignant about the fact that no one really knows what burned down, because the index went too, and there was no duplicate index.

Because phosphorus was used to ignite the fire, "we lost several firemen." He said they came to extinguish the fire with water hoses, but phosphorus burns on water, and the firemen died of burns. He said they should have used other methods to extinguish it. "It was all a very sad story."

Pohruzhal'sky was arrested and charged, but the trial was postponed because he was taken in for psychiatric examination, and was found sane, but he simulated insanity during the trial.

"We all said before the trial that he deserves a bullet in his head, but they conducted the trial as if Pohruzhal'sky committed a simple case of arson. Do you understand that? They tried him as if he set a fire to yours, or this gentleman's or my own home, not as a political crime. This is why he only got ten years. But he is old and sick, and he won't last the ten years. But we all said that he deserves a bullet in his head."

K said that the trial was not closed, but very few people knew when it would take place. It was not announced in the papers. Some people knew, and told others, but not everyone could take a day off from work.

Pohruzhal'sky simulated insanity at the trial. One of his defence arguments was that he wanted to bringvix call attention to the sloppy way in which the books were being kept in the library.

Someone then asked K whether he, as a physician could easily obtain a gram of phosphorus. "No I can't. I can't even obtain a grain of phosphorus," he said. "But what else can I tell you. You are all intelligent people. Well, did someone help him? ... Oh yes, at the trial he also said that he was preparing himself for this fire for two or three years." He did not want to carry the conversation further.

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Sichovi Striltsi Songs

"The boys" would like to know some of the Sichovi Striltsi songs, but neither the music nor the words are available. It is not that they are forbidden, but in ~~xxxx~~ fact they are forbidden. He said he brought one phonograph record with one such song with him from Poland and insisted that it be played on one of his TV programs (he pointed out that officially they are not proscribed) but the TV officials "our scared oldtimers" said that perhaps I should not play it, "so there would be no troubles." K was insistent and the song was played.

He said PAVLYCHKO knows many of the "Striletski" songs, and occasionally sings one or two, but he won't teach us. He is "Dmytryk-Khytryk." (Laughter).

K asked for records and music of these songs to be sent to him and he would popularize them. But he warned not to sent tapes, because they won't go through customs.

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A story about Communism's downfall: Marx had bushy hair and a long beard. Lenin had a beard, but no hair on his head. Stalin had thick mustache. Khrushchev had neither hair, nor a beard, nor a mustache.

The journalists had a problem: what words to use when referring to ~~Khr~~ Leonid Illich Brezhnev. Both Lenin and Stalin had flowery phrases, which were used to refer to them (and K ~~xxxxx~~ quoted these phrases). Brezhnev thought about it, finally said, "Oh, just call me Our Illich".

Asked what kind of a leader Brezhnev is, K said he is handsome, and all that, "it's as if you were to elect Frank Sinatra president of USA."

A story goes around Kiev, that one of the reasons for Khrushchev's downfall was that Izvestia ran an article against the chief of Kiev's railways. Shelest immediately phoned Moscow and demanded to know why the story ran without the prior approval by the ~~EE~~ CC of CP Ukraine. Adzhubey was to have told him in an insolent manner, that this is none of Shelest's business. They know what they are doing. This was to have made Shelest even more angry, and he was to have said something like this: "the young tsarévich is even worse than the old tsar," and that members of Khrushchev's family are ruling the USSR, etc.

Mikoyan came to the celebration of Kiev's liberation from the Germans in a scheduled airliner. All that was done, was that other passengers were asked to remain a few minutes longer inside the plane, ^{to allow} ~~xxxxx~~ Mikoyan to leave first and be welcomed. This gesture was to demonstrate that no longer will the state money be squandered.

Rumyantsev is a good man. The new editor of Pravda spent several years in Czechoslovakia editing Problémy Mira i Sotsializma. His liberal outlook is one of conviction, not strategy.

Ivan (Vanya) Semenets, was a party appointee as editor of Molod Ukrainy. Now he was moved up, and in his place there is a 26-year old journalist. Also the staff of Molod is now made up of younger professional journalists.

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